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STATINTL

Support-Suit Defendant Flashes \$500

CPYRGHT

The defendant in a maintenance suit flashed a \$500 bankroll before Judge Godfrey L. Munter yesterday, then explained that he carried the money "because these are uncertain times."

The defendant, Durand Smith, 55, of 1900 Q st. nw., is being sued by his wife, Jan Tansill Smith, for separate maintenance and custody of their 7-year-old son. The suit alleges that Smith failed to support his family and has a record of mental and emotional instability.

Smith, who said he is a former employe of the Central Intelligence Agency, telegraphed 160 persons to join him at the opening of the trial Thursday, but only two appeared.

He testified that his only cash was \$1200 in the bank and "what I happen to have in my pocket." "How much is that?" Judge Munter asked. "Between \$500 and \$600," Smith said.

Smith admitted owning stocks and bonds valued at \$240,000, but said he had been unemployed since February, 1956. He had been trying for work in several fields, Smith said, including that of mental health.

In his reply to the suit, Smith said he had supported his wife in accordance with his income and entered a counterclaim for custody of the child. Mrs. Smith, of 1528 31st st. nw., was unable to discipline their son, he said, and had failed to give him religious training.

Mrs. Smith, who claimed her husband has a net worth of \$800,000, is asking \$1500-a-month support. She was awarded \$500-a-month support by Judge Munter pending outcome of the suit.